

## MEXICANS SHOT FOR AMERICAN RANCHER'S DEATH

Two Brothers Face Firing  
Squad for Killing Bert  
Akers.

### EXECUTED IN CEMETERY

Bernardo and Federico Duran  
Curse People of U. S. with  
Last Breath.

### BLAME ON PUBLIC OPINION

Slayers Declare They Are Sacrifices  
to Popular Clamor North  
of Border.

Special to The Washington Herald.

El Paso, Jan. 23.—With a curse upon their lips against the American people, two young Mexicans—brothers—were shot to death by a Carranza firing squad in the Juarez cemetery at 6:30 this morning for the murder on Friday afternoon of Bert L. Akers, an American rancher of Yaleta, Tex. Bernardo and Federico Duran, the executed men, went to their death standing shoulder to shoulder against the whitewashed adobe wall of the cemetery. They faced the firing squad with undaunted bravery, refused to be blindfolded and fell together at the first volley.

Almost their last words was this challenge, flung at the small group of American newspaper men and friends of the murdered Akers:

"Watch and see how Mexicans die, you Americans."

The only plea of any sort was made by Bernardo Duran, the elder brother, a few minutes before the end.

"Dying for Americans."

Standing beside the cemetery gate, he said, in his own tongue:

"We are dying for you Americans. Tell the world that. I shot the American because he was trying to force entrance to my home. I was defending my rights, as any man would have done."

"My brother here is entirely innocent. He didn't fire a shot, but they are going to kill him too. Tell me—is this justice? He is being sacrificed to your American public opinion. We are not afraid to die, but why should an innocent man be killed? He is only 22 years old. I am 24. Some day we will be avenged."

The Juarez cemetery is a mile and a half from the jail, where the condemned men spent their last night.

The morning air was cold, but they were no coarser when they emerged at 5:30 a. m. from the prison and took their places between six silent guards and set out, aloft, for the place of death.

Slowly the little procession approached the gate at the cemetery, which stands at the crest of a gentle rise. The little group marched toward the "death house" in the center of the graveyard.

It was nearly daylight now. The moon, hanging low in the west, struck full upon west wall of the death house, against which the prisoners took their stand. Twenty feet in front of them stood five soldiers with rifles ready.

Discards Eye Cover.

It was 6 o'clock. The church tolled in El Paso and reverberated over the plains. Faintly then, but clear, came the sound of reveille bugles in the camps of American regiments along the border and at Fort Bliss. Suddenly the dawn broke.

Capt. Ortiz advanced and placed a soiled handkerchief over the younger man's eyes, but as soon as the officer stepped away he slipped it to his forehead and muttered:

"I will die like Bernardo, with my eyes open."

Bernardo, who had stood quietly until now, broke out into a torrent of abuse directed at the American spectators.

"Oh, for a carbine now in my hands," he shouted. "I'd show you Americans something. Our death will not go un-avenged. Ah—watch and see how Mexicans die, you American—"

A Mexican officer who had accompanied the Americans to the cemetery walked to the prisoners and said a word or two. The younger handed him a cheap little picture of himself and asked that it be sent to his parents in Santa Rita, N. M.

The elder gave him his hat as a present.

Fire as Bells Chime.

Then the policemen embraced them both and Bernardo said, "por la causa"—"for the cause."

The brothers spoke softly to each other as they turned and embraced.

"Ready," said the captain.

"Take aim."

Church bells in the ancient cathedral of Juarez began tolling to early mass.

"Fire!"

The brothers crumpled to the ground. Bernardo's arm, even in his death agony, lay across his brother's breast, as though trying to protect him.

A groan came from the writhing figure of the elder. With his dying breath he said clearly:

"O God, wait a minute."

Capt. Ortiz drew his revolver and advanced to the fallen men. Quickly he sent a bullet into the brain of each—the mercy shot.

## British Ship Sinks; Her Crew Is Saved

Special to The Washington Herald.

Halifax, Jan. 23.—After a battle with the elements lasting more than a week, the British steamship Pollentia sank in midocean tonight. All on board were saved. News of her loss was flashed here by wireless from the Italian liner Guiseppe Verdi, which rescued the crew.

Calls for help were first sent out from the Pollentia last Wednesday. They reported she was leaking badly. Her pumps were unable to keep in check the rushing waters. She had then been leaking for three days.

A high sea was running and the men manning the Verdi's boats were able to reach the Britisher only after a hard struggle.

When all were safely aboard the Verdi, the Pollentia, which had been wallowing in the trough of the sea, was seen to give a violent lurch and disappear beneath the waves.

## RUSSIA GAINS IN CAUCASUS

Turks Sabred by Cossacks in  
Defending Villages—Whole  
Companies Slain.

### WEATHER HALTS BRITISH IN DRIVE TOWARD KUT-EL-AMARA

Allied Battleship Bombards Sedd-ul-  
Bahr in Dardanelles, Says Con-  
stantinople Report.

Special Cable to The Washington Herald.

London, Jan. 23.—The rout of the Turks in the Caucasus continued, according to the official report issued at Petrograd tonight.

In the Dardanelles, an allied battleship has bombarded Sedd-ul-Bahr. In the Caucasus, in one place, half a squadron of Turkish cavalry and three companies of foot troops were either killed or captured, while in another a strong Turkish detachment was annihilated.

Attack Turkish Position.

Had weather alone halted the British drive to the relief of the beleaguered garrison of Kut-el-Amara, according to the India office report. Heavy attacks were launched by the relief column on the Turkish positions at Eshan, seven miles from Kut-el-Amara, on Friday. The British added considerable losses but the report of Gen. Sir Percy Lake, the new commander-in-chief of Mesopotamian operations, states that the Turks also suffered heavily. A torrential rain, making troop movement next to impossible, has put a temporary halt to operations. The British have taken up a position within 1,200 yards of the Turks.

The Russian report on the Caucasus drive says:

"The precipitate retreat of the Turks in the Erzerum district continues. In many places we are still taking artillery, ammunition, provisions and other material. Our forces are advancing on roads strewn with the frozen bodies of Askaria. At each village and town we have taken many prisoners."

Defenders Sabred.

"One of our detachments, just arrived from Manchuria, charged half a squadron and three companies of Askaria, who were defending a village. Part of the defenders were sabred and the rest captured."

"South of the Charlanson we annihilated a strong Kurd detachment. Toward Melaghezt our cavalry took 700 head of cattle in an engagement with a large Kurd force."

Bombardment of Sedd-ul-Bahr is reported in the following official report from Constantinople:

"A Turkish hydroplane has successfully bombarded the aeroplane sheds and camp at Tenedos."

"An enemy battleship shelled Sedd-ul-Bahr."

LANES IN RUNAWAY;  
SAVED BY COACHMAN

Driver Pulls Frightened Horses Against  
Lamp Post and Occupants of Car-  
riage Scramble Out.

Secretary of the Interior and Mrs. Lane were saved from being injured by the clever horsemanship of their coachman yesterday, when their driving horses frightened and became unmanageable.

Mr. and Mrs. Lane, out for an afternoon drive, were in Nineteenth street, near W street, a few blocks from the home, 1805 Wyoming avenue, when the coachman, Robert Ware, lost control of the team. As the horses started to run, Ware pulled them sharply to the right and against a lamp post. The impact served to check them long enough for Ware to run to their heads and for Mr. and Mrs. Lane to clamber from their carriage. With his hand on the bridle Ware had the management of the horses and they were quieted.

Although severely shaken about when a wheel of the carriage ran over the curb, Mr. and Mrs. Lane were not otherwise harmed.

## TURKEY ADMITS SINKING PERSIA, SAYS A REPORT

Ottoman Submarine Torpedoed P. & O. Liner, Accord-  
ing to Unofficial Statement.

### MAY DEMAND DISAVOWAL

United States Probably Will  
Send Sharp Note to  
Constantinople.

### REPORT IS FROM AMSTERDAM

State Department Without Confirmation—  
Government Has No Proof  
that Ship Was Victim of Sub.

Copyright, 1916.

London, Jan. 23.—The movement for peace has gathered more headway in Hungary than anywhere else in Europe. This fact, rumored for some time, has been confirmed by a prominent American business man who has just reached here from Budapest, where he spent four months, and met many of the leaders of the Hungarian Parliament.

Unlike the recent peace agitation in the Reichstag, of which the outside world obtained more or less accurate particulars, a demand for peace made in the Hungarian Parliament at the opening of the session was suppressed by the im-

perial censors. No accounts of what took place were published in the local press, and all dispatches destined for Vienna and abroad which dealt with the situation were destroyed.

And yet the Hungarian peace discussion was of much more importance than the one in Berlin, because it was not socialist in character. Count Michael Karolyi, leader of the Hungarian Independence party, demanded in the house, amid the cheers of his one hundred and twenty-five followers, that the government make peace or get out. "We have given proof of our physical courage; now let us show our moral courage," said

CONTINUED ON PAGE SEVEN.

## Hungarians Demand Peace; Openly Threaten Secession; Riots Occur Daily in Capital

Country's Object Achieved in Punishing Serbia—Independ-  
ence Party Leader Says, "We Have Proved Physical  
Courage, Let Us Show Moral Courage."

By JOHN L. BALDERTON

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## Germans Capture First Line Trenches on Road to Lens

Follow Mine Explosions with Attack in Force—French Re-  
capture Part of Trenches by Counter Attack—Germans  
Hold Two Hundred Meters of Advanced Trench.  
Aeroplanes Bombard Metz.

Special Cable to The Washington Herald.

London, Jan. 23.—The Germans, attacking heavily a French advanced position on the road between Arras and Lens, today captured the first-line trench on a front of several hundred meters.

The attack was made by strong German forces and was preceded by mine explosions and a violent bombardment.

By counter attacks, which were launched immediately, the French recaptured a portion of the trench. At the close of the day's fighting the Germans still occupied 200 meters of the captured line.

The official statement issued in Paris tonight says:

"This morning, following a mine explosion and a violent bombardment, the Germans carried out at attack on a part of our front to the west of the road from Arras to Lens in the region of Neuville-St. Vaast."

The Germans were able to penetrate our first-line trenches on a front of sev-

eral hundred metres, reaching as far as the communication trench.

"Our counter-attacks, which were delivered immediately, broke up the German effort and dislodged the enemy from the captured ground. The Germans this afternoon occupied only about 200 metres of the advanced trench, forming a salient in our lines. Our certain fire inflicted severe losses on the Germans."

"During Sunday two of our aeroplane detachments, numbering 21 machines in all, bombarded the railway station and barracks at Metz. One hundred and thirty shells were dropped upon intended objectives. The bombing aeroplanes were escorted by two protecting squadrons, the pilots of which, during the voyage engaged in ten encounters with German aeroplanes of the Fokker and Aviatik type."

"Our machines returned in safety, with the exception of one, which was compelled to land to the southeast of Metz."

Sweden May Enter War With

Teutons, Senator Fall Hears

Advices Say Scandinavian Nation May Declare War on

Russia and Great Britain Within One Week.

Norway and Denmark May Follow.

Rack is territorial waters, being less than six miles in width. Danish territory extends out from shore three miles on one side and Swedish territory for three miles on the other. An English blockade of Sweden would thus automatically seal the entrance to the Baltic.

"My information that war is imminent comes from a reliable source, and all the facts seem to make it more than probable."

Copenhagen, Jan. 23.—A conference of the foreign ministers of all the Scandinavian countries is to be held at Stockholm in February, according to the Berliner Tageblatt.

The conference is called to discuss the new blockade measures expected soon to be taken by Great Britain and allies. It will deal as well with the increasingly vexatious manner of enforcement of the British orders-in-council.

This conference is a sequel to the conference of the three Scandinavian kings held earlier in the war at Malmö, Sweden. It is believed that events, recent and prospective, now make it necessary for the Scandinavian kingdoms to protect their neutral rights.

Declaration of war will be made upon Great Britain and on Russia, Senator Fall's advice state. Actual hostilities, it is understood, will be begun with an attack on Russia through Finland.

"The real cause of Sweden's declaring war," explained Senator Fall, "will be found to lie in the repeated efforts of Great Britain to force Sweden to do this very thing. However, great bitterness against Russia may be in Sweden, recent developments in the British blockade of Sweden have aroused the Swedes to an even more bitter hostility against England. From the outbreak of the war Sweden has been favorable to Germany and has done everything in her power to aid Germany."

"With war existing between the two countries, Great Britain could announce and make effective a blockade of Sweden which would in effect close the Baltic and make it an inland sea. The Skagerack is territorial waters, being less than six miles in width. Danish territory extends out from shore three miles on one side and Swedish territory for three miles on the other. An English blockade of Sweden would thus automatically seal the entrance to the Baltic."

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## AUSTRIA TAKES TWO SEAPORTS OF MONTENEGRO

Teutons Slowly Encircling the  
Remnants of King Nich-  
olas' Army.

### PRIZES ARE IMPORTANT

Antivari and Dulcigno Near  
Scutari, Captured by Inva-  
ders—Rated as Chief Ports.

### FACTS IN OFFICIAL PAPER

Statement Says Montenegrins "Con-  
tinue to Lay Down Arms"—1,500  
Serbians Surrender, Says Report.

Special Cable to The Washington Herald.

Paris, Jan. 23.—The Austrians in their encircling movement on the remnants of the Montenegrin army have occupied the seaports of Antivari and Dulcigno.

These are Montenegrin's two seaports on the Adriatic. Antivari being fourteen miles northwest of Scutari and Dulcigno, crowning the rocky peninsula of Kudidje, twelve miles southwest of Scutari.

The Austrian official statement which publishes this information in Vienna tonight also states that the Montenegrins "continue to lay down their arms" at numerous places and that "on the north-eastern front of Montenegro more than 1,500 Serbians have surrendered during the last few days."

Meanwhile a report from Rome states that a fierce battle between the Montenegrins and Austrians has been in progress for three days to the south of Scutari. Prince Mirko is leading the Montenegrins under tragic conditions, says the Tribune.

His army, in immediate danger of being surrounded, is making desperate efforts to join the advancing force of Serbians from the south.

If the Montenegrins do not succeed in holding back the Austrians they will attempt to escape to the mountains, says the Tribune, and then continue to guerrilla war in the hope that aid from the allies will at least come to them from the sea.

A Vienna dispatch, by way of Zurich, contains first admission from Teutonic sources that the fighting has been resumed in Montenegro and at the same time points out the hopelessness of the Montenegrin situation.

"Even the withdrawal of the King's unconditional surrender," says the dispatch, "would not change the condition of affairs because the Montenegrin army is no longer able to offer resistance. Nineteen of its artillery is now in the hands of the Austro-Hungarian troops. The importation of ammunition and foodstuffs also is now impossible because of the occupation by the Austrians of Antivari."

CONFIRMS SECESSION  
OF STATE OF OAXACA

Letter to Senator Ball States that Gov-  
ernment Independent of Carran-  
za's Has Been Established.

Senator Albert B. Fall, of New Mexico, received last night confirmatory information of the secession of the state of Oaxaca, and of the establishment there of a government independent of Carranza's. The news came in a letter from G. W. Knoblauch, former partner of John B. McManus, who was shot and killed in his house in Mexico City last March.

The letter reads as follows:

"Regarding Carranza's ability to handle the situation, it is interesting to learn that the state of Oaxaca has seceded. This is probably no news to you, inasmuch as the secession took place on June 2 of last year. The incident leading up to this act was an attempt on the part of one of Carranza's officers, Figueroa by name, to capture the state congress of Oaxaca."